

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15

STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 FEA-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

/108 W

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P 232245Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6229

INFO AMCONSUL CALGARY

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1484

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA, US

SUBJECT: NATURAL GAS EXPORT PRICE INCREASE

REF: OTTAWA 1465

1. CANADIAN APRIL 23 AFTERNOON PRESS (OTTAWA CITIZEN, OTTAWA JOURNAL AND TORONTO STAR) ALL CARRIED STRAIGHT NEWS REPORTS OF U.S.-CANADIAN APRIL 22 CONSULTATIONS ALONG SAME LINES AS INDICATED REFTTEL.

2. SOLE EDITORIAL COMMENT WAS CARRIED IN OTTAWA CITIZEN, ENTITLED "MAKE A DEAL ON GAS," WHICH STATED:

BEGIN TEXT: CANADA SHOULD PRACTISE WHAT IT PREACHES ON THE PRICE OF NATURAL GAS EXPORTED TO THE U.S.

OTTAWA HAS MADE A STRONG CASE FOR NEGOTIATED PRICES OF COMMODITIES, WITH PRODUCER AND CONSUMER COUNTRIES STRIKING A BARGAIN INSTEAD OF PRODUCER COUNTRIES
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ACTING UNILATERALLY. YET EVEN BEFORE U.S. OFFICIALS

CAME HERE TO DISCUSS GAS PRICES, OTTAWA HAD
MADE ITS DECISION.

NATURAL GAS PRICES WILL HAVE TO RISE, TO BRING
THEM INTO LINE WITH THE PRICE OF OTHER FUELS,
ESPECIALLY OIL. OTHERWISE THERE WOULD BE LITTLE
INCENTIVE TO EXPLORE FOR AND DEVELOP NEW GAS
SOURCES, OR TO ENCOURAGE CONSERVATION OF EXISTING
SUPPLIES BY CONSUMERS. BUT THAT DOES NOT RELIEVE
OTTAWA OF THE OBLIGATION TO CONSULT.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS FOLLOWING THAT
COURSE ON DOMESTIC RATES. NEW PRICES ARE BEING
NEGOTIATED WITH THE PROVINCES. OUR U.S. CUSTOMERS
ARE ENTITLED TO THE SAME TREATMENT. END TEXT
PORTER

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